Questions and Answers.

Medical Examination of Schools.

320. **Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar**.—Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a consolidated result of the medical examination of schools carried out during the year 1106 especially with regard to the following points 1. what disease was most common among (a) boys ; (b) amongst girls with reference to each schools ;

2. whether any action was taken as a result of the inspection; if so, what ?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—Vide statements placed on the Council Table.

2. The guardians were duly informed of the defects pointed out in the Inspection Reports and cases which required immediate attention were referred to the local hospitals for treatment.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—'Defective vision and eye disease'. In the Palace Girls' School it is 40 and 60 per cent but in all other schools it is 5 or 9 or 2 and in the Trippunittura Boys' High School also defective vision is 30 per cent. May I know whether any enquiry was made why there is such a large number of cases of defective vision?

Mr. I. N. Menon.— I have given the answer. Such matters are referred to the guardians and to the local hospitals for treatment. This department is not competent to hold any enquiry of this nature. It must be done by an expert who knows something about medicine.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Has any expert made any enquiry?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—I have no information.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Who is the expert?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—It must be the Medical Department. I cannot make enquiries about defective vision and such diseases with reference to all the schools. I can only just report these cases to the local hospitals for treatment.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—I want to know whether the Government made any enquiry, and not the Director.

Mr. I. N. Menon.—I do not see how I can vouchsafe an answer to that question. I have referred the matter to the local hospitals and brought it to the notice of the Government and if any further information is needed I want notice.

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